

M E M O R A N D U M

July 28, 1967

TO: LOUIS IVON, Chief Investigator
FROM: S. SCALIA and K. SIMMS, Detectives
RE: REV. JOHNSON WARD, JR.

On July 18, 1967, at about 1:00 P.M., Dets. K. Simms and S. Scalia received instructions from Louis Ivon to escort REV. JOHNSON WARD, JR., c/m 34, residing at 1334 Wilson Street, 729-5102, to his home and to pick up an alleged notebook (photo-stat of contents of notebook attached) which was in his possession. Officers received the notebook from WARD and he stated that the notebook came into his possession either shortly before or shortly after Christmas 1966. He stated that he was involved in a demolishing job at 2229 Cleveland Avenue and found the notebook in a wall in the upstairs front apartment.

Officers obtained information that MR. ARTHUR STEINER owned property at 2229 Cleveland from 1955 through October 22, 1963. A copy of MR. STEINER's ledger sheets showing the names of tenants during this period is attached.

It was also learned that MR. STEINER sold this property to MR. MORTON GOLDBERG who kept property from October 22, 1963, through June 1, 1966, at which time he sold same to Star Chrysler.

MR. RUBENS who is the owner of Star Chrysler verified the fact that he did own property at 2229 Cleveland and that he did hire a group of negroes led by REV. W. NEAL to demolish the apartment building at 2229 Cleveland.

On July 20, 1967, at about 2:00 A.M. JOHNSON WARD again appeared in the District Attorney's office for the purpose of giving a statement regarding the above mentioned notebook. (Because of the length of the statement and because of the lateness of the day, this statement was not typed until 7/21/67, and thus not signed). Numerous efforts have been made to get subject to sign statement but have been unsuccessful.

Also on July 20, 1967, at about 5:00 P.M. JOHNSON agreed to submit to a polygraph examination to be administered to JOHNSON by SGT. E. O'DONNELL of the N.O.P.D. SGT. O'DONNELL reported that the results of this examination were negative which indicated that JOHNSON was not telling the truth.

All during this investigation JOHNSON stated that he had also obtained some pictures with the notebook. He stated that these pictures were misplaced but that he would locate them. As of this time he has not located these pictures. Also he has not returned any calls placed to him from this office.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF ORLEANS

July 20, 1967

STATEMENT OF: REV. JOHNSON WARD, JR., Age 33
RESIDING AT: 1334 Wilson Street
 Metairie, La.

S T A T E M E N T

Around Christmas of 1966 I was in the contracting business with W. NEAL of Kenner, Louisiana, on Bingo Street. NEAL is in his 40's. It was he and I doing this particular job. He was contacted by a man who owns Star Chrysler named RUBEN. RUBEN wanted to see NEAL about wrecking out a building located on Cleveland just off of Miro Street. REVEREND NEAL contacted me and told me that we had a building to knock out. We notified the people that they had to move out in two weeks so that we could start tearing down the building.

Besides myself and NEAL we had seven or eight men hired to tear down this building. Somewhere around two weeks after NEAL spoke to MR. RUBEN, we started wrecking out the building. When we started working on the building, they still had a couple living on the bottom floor. They stayed for two or three days while we were wrecking the building. While wrecking the upstairs part of the building in the front apartment of the building--I had kicked all of the sheetrock out along the wall until I came to the closets and took all of the fruit jars off of the shelves and put them in a box; I removed the wooden shelves and started pulling the sheetrock off of the wall inside of the closet--behind this sheetrock, I found a big brown envelope. In this envelope I found two tablets in it, one tablet had no writing on it and I used this tablet to figure on. The other tablet had some writing on it and it had some paid receipts in it. I looked at the writing but could not make out what it was. Also, in this envelope were several pictures. In one of the pictures was a lady dressed in a wedding gown. In another picture they just had some men dressed up in suits. In one picture you could see bottles like they were having a party.

After I found this envelope, I stood and looked at the tablets and pictures for a while and stuck all of the papers and pictures back into the envelope and put it in a bucket. Behind this sheetrock they had a screwdriver, this envelope, and something else, I can't remember what.

A boy by the name of JOHNNY who was working for me and NEAL, NEAL knows his last name, was kidding me about finding money. Before I left to go to Star Chrysler to get some coffee I told JOHNNY if they found any money that we would split it. I picked the envelope out of the bucket in which I had put it and showed JOHNNY and WASHINGTON and told them that I had already found something.

- Q. In the front apartment where you found this envelope, do you know who was living in this apartment?
- A. No, there was a man living there but I didn't know him. He was about 36 years old, about 5'11, about 160 pounds. He was staying in the front apartment at the time we tore the apartment down.

After I got my coffee and came back to the building, the old man who was living downstairs told me that he was given all of the stuff that was upstairs by the boy who lived there. They also had a cot upstairs which had a suitcase under it. I looked in this suitcase and it contained a lot of papers. I didn't know what was on any of these papers. The boys who were working for us moved all of the stuff that was left upstairs downstairs and stacked it in front of the old man's apartment. This old man and his wife who lived downstairs were getting ready to move at this time. My father-in-law, CHANEY KNOX, and two white boys who stayed in one of the apartments upstairs toward the rear helped my father-in-law load all of the old man's things on the truck including all of the things that were given to him by the boy in the front apartment. I found out later from my father-in-law that all of this stuff was brought to a house on Tulane Avenue and I will find out tomorrow where this house is from my father-in-law.

While wrecking this building I saw people picking up dishes and curtains, but I didn't think any people lived there.

It took about seven or eight days to tear down the house and then we cleaned up.

I didn't know the old man who was living in the apartment at the building we were tearing down. He was about 55 years old, a little over five feet. He was short and thin, weighed about 130 pounds, grey headed. I'd know him again if I saw him.

It was around the beginning of January that I called down here. I contacted the District Attorney's Office because I saw the name Dallas on one of the pictures and on the tablet and the names in the tablet looked like they could have been in the investigation. In the beginning of January after I spoke to REV. ERNEST DAY about what I found in the building, I called the District Attorney's Office and spoke to a policeman. I don't remember his name, but when I saw REVEREND DAY, I told him the name of the person I spoke to in the District Attorney's Office. I think he remembers the name of the policeman who I spoke to. I left my address and telephone number with this policeman and he said that someone would contact me. Nobody contacted me so shortly after that I started packing to go to Ponchatoula. At that time I looked for the tablet that I had found in the building and I couldn't find it. I moved some of my things up there with me in Ponchatoula. When I got to Ponchatoula, the job fell through so I came back to New Orleans. I was living on Wilson Street in Jefferson Parish at that time.

In the middle of March 1967, I was on Mistletoe Street next to GEORGE SMALL's Motel, talking to a group of fellows and we started talking about the investigation and I brought up the subject about me calling the District Attorney's Office and

telling them about the pictures and the policeman at the District Attorney's Office told me that someone would contact me. I told them that the policeman at the District Attorney's Office had lied and that no one had contacted me. In this group of fellows were three contractors who lived in Little Farms. GEORGE SMALL was there, he is a colored policeman. He works in Jefferson Parish. There were eight or nine more fellows sitting around there who lived out in Little Farms. I don't know their names. There was a white plumber there seeing about the plumbing. I don't know who he was. We were all waiting to see RICHARDSON, he is a colored man who owns a bar by the railroad tracks beneath the causeway going towards Kenner.

In the beginning of April I was over on Harring Road or Green Acres Road pouring a sidewalk and driveway and two men in a 1966 or '67 white Cadillac drove up, both of these men were white. The man sitting on the passenger side of the car was in his 50's, thin face, grey hair. He had a white coat on and white hat like an old time southern gentlemen's hat. He sat in the car the whole time. The driver of the car was about 6'2, weighed about 190 or 200 pounds, in his 30's, neatly dressed in a suit. He had shades on. He had black hair, olive complexion, looked like a Spanish person, spoke with an accent. The other guy on the passenger side did not look Spanish. The driver got out of the car and started kidding with me. I thought that he wanted me to do some work for him but he said that he didn't want me to do any work. He said he was interested in some papers that a Reverend had found. I said that I didn't know about anybody finding papers. He said that he heard that someone found some papers. He said that he would make it worth my while and I said I didn't know anything about any papers. STEWARD, a boy who works for me, or somebody else was with me at that time. I can find out who was with me. They didn't hear the conversation with the two men but saw the two men come up to me. After the two men left, it then dawned on me what he was talking about and who he was talking about, it was me. I went home and told my wife what had happened. I don't know how these two men found out that I had these papers. I asked my wife to look for the papers because I wanted to bring it to the District Attorney's Office, and she couldn't find it.

In May 1967 I was coming out of the M. A. Green Shopping Center and I was turning down Mistletoe Street and the same man who was driving the Cadillac was in this 1966 Pontiac, bronze or light brown with a black vinyl top, two door with a commercial license plate, stopped me and asked me, "Hey Reverend, did you find those papers?" I said, "What papers?" And he said, "Those papers concerning CLAY SHAW." This man told me that he was from the District Attorney's Office. He didn't show me any identification. He said that he would contact me. He was neatly dressed in a suit and tie. I told this man I was going to look for these papers. (The car that this man was driving could have been an Oldsmobile, but it looked like a Pontiac.) I went home and looked for the papers.

On Saturday, June 15, 1967, I went to Rose's Grocery Store. When I came out of the grocery which is located on Mistletoe Street and Laurel Street, the man who I had previously seen in the Pontiac was parked in front of the grocery. He walked up to me and asked me if I had looked for those papers. He showed me his badge. It was a card inside of a folder. It said something about police on the card. I told him that I hadn't found the papers. He asked me if I had mentioned it to anybody

and I said no. I was parked in the back of him and I noticed that one side of his license plate had fallen down and I saw an Oklahoma license plate. It was white with red letters, the first letters on it was GR. I could see part of the word Oklahoma on it. The plate that was covering it was a commercial plate sort of white looking with red letters. I don't know whether it was a Louisiana commercial plate or not. I then went home.

KENNETH KNOX and JERRY KNOX, my two brother-in-laws, came to my house on Saturday, July 15, about 9:00 and broke a window on my house door. Then GEORGE SMALL came in. He is a colored policeman. KENNETH was standing on my front porch with a shotgun. SMALL took the gun away from KENNETH and told both KENNETH and JERRY to go home. SMALL told me that I was under arrest. MR. WILLIE GLOVER, the man who owns the place where I rent, asked SMALL why he was arresting me and SMALL told GLOVER, "Let me run my job." SMALL told me to get in the police car. SMALL started cussing me and said, "You come here with ten or fifteen cents and all of you Reverends want to be millionaires here." He asked me about the papers and called me a liar and some bad words and told me that he would beat my head. SMALL said, "Nigger, I'll shoot you and put a gun at your feet." I told him, "You might kill me, but I'm not going to sit here and let you kill me." Then he stopped the car and started to get out and hit me in the mouth. SGT. JOHNSON and another colored officer drove up and asked SMALL what was going on. We were two blocks from where I live. We were parked when the two policemen drove up. SGT. JOHNSON took me out of SMALL's car and put me in his car and said that GLOVER called him in to come out to investigate what was happening. When SMALL had stopped the car and was messing with me, JERRY KNOX was walking down the street. SGT JOHNSON told SMALL that he would have to have all of us. (KENNETH, JERRY, and myself) We went out to the police station and they fingerprinted us and charged us with disturbing the peace. The Lieutenant at the police station asked me what happened to my lip. GEORGE SMALL had told me that if I told anybody that he had hit me in the lip that I would just get another whipping. So when the Lieutenant asked me about my lip, I told him that my wife did it. After I got out of jail, I went home and my wife carried me to the doctors. That was Sunday morning, July 16, 1967, about 2 or 3 A. M. I got three stitches put in my lip.

REVEREND DANGRIGRE went down to the Sheriff's with me and he told the Sheriff about this brutality.

On Tuesday, July 18, 1967, I found the notebook with the writing in it and some of the papers. I didn't find the pictures. I brought the tablets to the District Attorney's Office.

This statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and was made without any threats or promises or coercion.

JOHNSON WARD, JR.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 2nd day of August, 1967.

Notary Public

Witness

Witness

Rec 7-18-67

LESSON ASSIGNMENTS

CLASS DATE

8-3-63 8-14-63
Liel K. Broward

2 Rowland 30-06
No. 30200 p 200 yard

CLASS DATE 8-14-63

Clay C. Bernstein
Ray Outman DO NOT
Hand Outlines
VIA AIR MAIL

CLASS DATE

CLASS DATE

LESSON ASSIGNMENTS

CLASS DATE

Jack *Lesson*
Rubin *Big*
Dallas *Tex*

CLASS DATE

CLASS DATE

CLASS DATE

LESSON ASSIGNMENTS

CLASS DATE

Clay S. Buckner

CLASS DATE

CLASS DATE

CLASS DATE



19 14 U OOM = (53)
24 W IOI = (53)

Deger Jean Leon Jr. (W) 97388

Violet, La.

Fisherman

Brinthaway, La.

Slim

Med. Swarthy

Red

Brown

7/19/35

20 yrs.

5-30

142

Tot ext rt 4-mm 1450401; Ext 14
E 4-arm APPLE; upper rt arm in
suit RJL

App: 10-10-5 9, 1st., Sgt.
C. Police, etc.
Chg. Fug from St. Bernard Par,
Lt. for Assault.

BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION, POLICE DEPARTMENT, NEW ORLEANS, LA.

NAME		NO.		
ALIAS		PREVIOUS NO.		
CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
NOPD	Roger Jean Leon Jr. #97329	10-10-59	Fugitive from St. Bernard Par. on Assault Chg.	Returned S.B. 2-17-60
NOPD	Robert Roger Leon #HC 7427	3-1-61	Assault (City chg. 42-24)	\$100 & 60 & 30

Last known address of subject 1800 N. Tonti St. (1961), gave occupation as "Trapper". May also be same subject arrested by SO. NOLA. on 2-19-57 and 2-20-57 for traffic violations, and RS 32:536 [???].

Lived at 2229 Cleveland

LESSON ASSIGNMENTS

CLASS DATE

Lease *Region*
Region *Big*
Golden Ice

CLASS DATE

CLASS DATE

CLASS DATE

LESSON ASSIGNMENTS

CLASS DATE

Clay S. Burstein

CLASS DATE

CLASS DATE

CLASS DATE